

A Note for Parents & Teachers from R.L. Stine

This has been a scary year for all of us.

Unfortunately, [kids aren't immune to the stress, anxiety and fear](#). They're trying to navigate the strange new world of virtual learning and accept the loss of normalcy that a pandemic has imposed upon us all. Kids in the developing world, many of whom were already living on the brink of extreme poverty – like my sponsored child, Bineta – are facing uncertainties difficult for most of us to imagine.

But I know that children are also some of the most resilient people on the planet. They can and do adjust to new ways of learning, growing, and being. It helps to have a supportive adult like you around who can reassure them and give them creative opportunities to express their fears.

That's what people have always been really good at, after all – using our imaginations to make meaning out of tough times. And it's why children need Halloween this year more than ever, trick-or-treating or no.

The #MyScariestMonster contest was created for just that reason.

Whether you are a teacher who is looking for ways to engage with your students from afar, or a parent who has suddenly found yourself playing a more active role in your child's education, we hope that the contest will give you an opportunity to build literacy skills at home while you have fun and connect with the young writer in your life.

Kids in ChildFund's programs are participating, too, so we hope you'll also take this opportunity to teach kids about global poverty and the work that organizations like ChildFund do to help kids facing some of the [scariest challenges](#) in the world. [Sponsoring a child](#) together can offer some great perspective for the whole family or classroom.

Follow ChildFund on social media for updates, and remember: You are the most powerful ally your kids have for becoming braver and more resilient in the face of adversity. You are the monster slayer!

Yours Ghoully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RL Stine". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.